

Real-life story - Luke Watson

Luke loves his role as a nurse cadet because he has a direct influence on a person's health and he gets to work with a range of healthcare staff.



Luke Watson Nurse cadet

Employer or university Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead

Salary range ?10k-?20k

Getting started

Initially I was interested in being a paramedic after getting my BTEC National Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences, but I decided to try and get some healthcare experience in a hospital first.

I was successful in getting a healthcare assistant apprenticeship and working in the A&E department for 13 months gave me a real feel for the health sector. I loved every minute!

I decided to pursue a career in nursing and when a new cadetship course started at the trust, I jumped at the chance to get a place as a way to acquire the necessary qualifications and experience to apply for university. The cadetship has allowed me to gain enough UCAS points to apply for a degree in adult nursing, while keeping my practical skills sharp.

What I do

As cadets, we have placements in various wards and assist with patient mobility, personal care and patients' individual health needs. Working with the nursing staff, I may also assist with procedures such as catheter care and monitoring blood pressure and temperature. I also monitor dietary and fluid intake and help patients with feeding if they need it.?

I help lots of different healthcare professionals with their daily tasks: everyone from nurses, doctors and healthcare assistants to porters, housekeepers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. I've worked in many different departments and wards around the hospital ? for example medical, haematology, gastroenterology, surgical, orthopaedics, palliative care, and community and day case departments - which means I've cared for many different types of patients.?

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Best bits and challenges

The thing I enjoy most is providing individual patient care. Having a direct influence on a person's health is very fulfilling and I love watching a person progress and improve from admission to discharge. I build a rapport with both the patients and their families; this gives me an insight into how they live at home so we can help improve their health, living environment and social circumstances.

Next steps

Looking ahead, I hope to qualify and register as an adult nurse and progress up the career ladder to a charge nurse role.

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